RESEARCH PLAN PROPOSAL

Emerging Patterns of Political Socialization among Educated Youth in Jaipur City

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INTRODUCTION

Every type of political system needs socialization of citizens according to its requirements. Political Socialization is the process of transmission of the political culture to new generation of citizens in a given society. It is the process by which young people acquire knowledge, dispositions and social skills that allow them to participate effectively in civic affairs. Education, family, peer group and mass media play an important role in the political development of society. They perform the function of political socialization of younger generation by inculcating in them loyalty to the political orientations underlying the present system of government, to the established political values, norms, attitudes, knowledge etc. and integrate them with existing society. According to Almond "Political Socialization not only gives us insight into the pattern of political culture and sub-culture in society, but also locates for us in the socialization process of the society the point where particular qualities and elements are being sustained or modified." There are three components of political socialization :

1. Political awareness- Information about political parties, national and international policies, constitutional values.
2. Political commitment- Information about ideological basis of various parties.
3. Political participation- Participation in voting, rallies, demonstrations and debates etc.

In modern democratic societies attempts are made to develop nationalistic sentiments, democratic ideals and a sense of civic responsibility with the help of systems of schools and colleges. Education performs the role of political socialization through the contents of courses in schools and colleges, the process of forming and conducting student associations and through various types of intellectual, cultural and sporting activities organized with the help of student's celebration of regional and national festivals and through the informal relations between students and teachers and among students themselves. Teaching of subjects like history, civics, social sciences, languages, text books etc., also play an important role. Other subjects are also indirectly utilized to this end. A proper performance of this function of political socialization becomes supportive to the structures of the political system and provides stability and continuity to it, whereas its non-performance raises the possibility of challenges to the structure of the political system and may even disrupt it.

RELEVANCE OF THE STUDY

Indian society is undergoing a fundamental change. The greater proportion of youth (41.05%) in Indian population, rising literacy levels (74%), rapid urbanization and information revolution has changed the outlook of all Indian citizens, especially the youth. The resurgence of Indian society requires certain issues to be addressed. The youth are now raising their voice on social and economic issues and do not want answers for non-performance. This awakening could prove to be a turning point which will take India into the category of developed nations and ensure that all citizens lead a life of dignity and respect. In this context present study seeks to examine the pattern of Political socialization of educated youth. Three components of political socialization will be analysed: Political awareness, Political commitment and Political participation.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Agarwal (2011) opines that after family, the educational institutions exercise the strongest possible influence, both latent and manifest, in context of political socialization upon the student. Students getting education in a particular institution may develop particular frame of mind. The more extensive an individual education the more likely he is to be aware of the impact of government policies, to possess a wide range of opinion on political matters, to engage in political discussion with a wide range of people, to be a member of voluntary organization and has a greater ability to influence political affairs.

Budrich (2011) states that Politics, culture and socialization publishe a new and significant work in all areas of political socialization in order to achieve a better understanding of the origins of political behaviour and orientations of individual and group. Political socialization theory and research focus on processes and structures through which individuals become or do not become politically active and acquire or do not acquire general political knowledge and particular political beliefs, opinions, attitudes, emotions and behavioral intentions.

Geva (2011) opines that those without political socialization are not particularly inclined to get themselves involved in any political or democratic process. The main component of political

socialization is parents talking about politics, childhood exposure to politics and formal education.

Galston (2010) states that the study of youth, Political literacy, and civic activism is a both complex understanding and normatively loaded. Research should be carried out to the explore new avenues of political socialization and for a better understanding of agents like family, education, activities and interaction that shape young people visions of the political world and their choice to participate or non-participate in it. There is a need for a clearer understanding of what we know about politics and how we can link that knowledge to civic engagement.

Greenberg (2009) says that the processes and outcomes of political socialization through family, education and mass media an individual acquires the attitudes, beliefs and values of the political culture from these ways and takes roles as citizen within that political frame work.

Hooghe (2008) opines that the political attitudes and behavior of young people differ significantly from those of earlier generation. Author has expressed concern about the decline of participation and trust among young people. He argues that the

society will have find ways through education and mass media to adapt to more critical and participant citizen.

Devitt (2007) states that media contributes to political socialization by providing youth with perspective that give them a foothold in the political system. Information obtained from news media allows the youth to form opinion to talk about politics, and to gain motivation for civic participation. Education helps them to analyses the content presented by the media and make informed choices.

Durkheim (2007) recognized that education had taken different forms at different times and places, he believed that in virtually all societies, education was of critical importance in creating the moral unity necessary for social cohesion and harmony. For Durkheim moral values were the foundation of society. Education should help the individual to grow, into a fullness of physical and vital energy and utmost, breadth, depts. and height of his emotional, his intellectual and his spiritual being. Through education people should understand what is right and wrong in their life and then they make decisions.

Sinha (2007) opines the process of social economic and political reconstruction needs to be started and carried on in right earnest. The political things we change for better training in political activities needs to be imparted to women though

campus training in a continuous process. It should be made a part of student's extra-curricular activities at school and college level.

Gupta (2005 *)* states the education has an important role to play in bringing about a peaceful and silent revolution for ushering in an era of harmony, peace, progress and prosperity in India. Education should focus on developing democratic attitudes among the students which are essential for development of the country.

Parson (2001) believed that education is a vital part of modern society, a society that different considerably from all previous societies. From this perspective schooling performs important functions in the development and maintenance of a modern, democratic society, especially with regard to equality of opportunities for all citizens.

Nancy (2001) opines that education is an especially powerful instrument of political participation. They have identified a range of direct and indirect effects that formal education has upon political participation. Its direct effects include acquisition of knowledge and communication skills useful for public debate and in political analysis through courses with current events context. Its indirect effects are many and include the benefits of

voluntary engagement in clubs, students council, publication of college magazines, newspapers etc. These arenas provide young people with an early apprenticeship for politics, where they can exercise leadership, develop civic skills of co-operation and negotiation and acquire bureaucratic and organizational skills useful for political activity.

Venkataiah (2000) opines that education is the only device to moulds the contemporary society it has an important role to play in preparing the people to meet the social, economic and political challenges.

Faulks (1999) opines political culture is partly, the product of the concentration of communicative power in the state and within certain institution of civil society which allows political and economic elites to shape the political agenda, and therefore political values to some degree. Almond and Verba are therefore right to argue that attitude to political and social behaviors are an important ingredient in the success of any political system. However, the civic culture that Almond and Verba defend is founded upon an elitist view of expectations of an ever more educated and informed civil society.

Singh (1998) states that there are certain social characteristics which are related to political socialization for example sex, caste

and the type of school, occupation of parents and mass media exposure. Boys were politically more socialized than girls; cognitive affective and evolutional orientations were high among boys as compared to girls.

METHODOLOGY

Operational Definitions:

1. Education: The act of process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge, developing the power of reasoning and judgments, and generally or preparing oneself or other intellectual for mature life.

2. Political Socialization: It is the process through which youth acquire political cognition attitude and behaviour. It refers to a learning process by which norms and behavior acceptable to a well learning political system are transmitted from one generation to another.

3. Educated Youth: Youth who have obtained graduation degree and are enrolled in post graduate courses.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To identify the awareness level of youth regarding the political issues of the country.

2. To explore whether students understand the importance of political participation.

3. To evaluate the opportunities provided by the higher education system for political participation.

4. To understand the reasons for political indifference of today's youth, if any.

5. To analyse the role of media in political awareness of youth.

6. To analyse the role of agencies such as education, caste, family, religion in political learning, prejudices among youth.

7. To identify the reasons for differential gender learning in political socialization.

Research Questions

Q1. What are the awareness levels of youth regarding the political issues of the country?

Q2.What is the opinion of youth regarding political participation?

Q3. What are the opportunities provided by the higher education system for political participation?

Q4. What are the reasons for political indifference among youth?

Q5. What is the role of media in political awareness of youth?

Q6. What is the role of agencies such as education, caste, family and religion in political learning and prejudices among youth?

Q7.What are the reasons for differential gender learning in political socialization?

Area

The area for the study is Jaipur city.

Universe

The current demographic profile of India indicates that youth comprise a substantial percentage of the population. This has major political and social consequences for the country. All educated youth pursuing Post graduation in Jaipur City will be the universe for this study.

Sampling

A list of colleges having post graduate departments in Jaipur will be obtained from the Directorate of College Education. Sampling frame of students in five institutions will be constructed. The students (approx. 5%) will be selected randomly from each of these institutions.

TOOLS FOR DATA COLLECTION

Utmost care will be taken while collecting the data so as to maintain objectivity and gather appropriate facts so that the objectives purposes of the study are met with.

The following tools will be used for the purpose of study.

1. Questionnaire- For the purpose of collecting first-hand information and facilitating comparison of data, a close ended questionnaire will be prepared. This questionnaire will be used for acquiring the information from the respondents.
2. Unstructured interview-Due to qualitative nature of the study it is assumed that beside the question included in the schedule certain supplementary questions will be needed to be asked. It is assumed that by giving the respondents, the freedom to talk would reveal their focus on attentions, attitude and opinion. Hence, an unstructured interview will also be conducted on the respondents.
3. Secondary Sources- These sources help in providing certain information which may be difficult to obtain otherwise. Besides these sources also help in supplementing the information acquired through primary sources as well as

providing a guideline to the investigator. Newspapers, Magazines, Journals and Articles.

DATA ANALYSIS TOOLS

After collecting the data a descriptive analysis of the data will be done because it is both qualitative as well as quantitive which will be followed by an appropriate statistical analysis.

Statistical analysis will include tabulation of data and representation of data using graph and chart for diagrammatic representation of data.

LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

1. The limitation of time space and manpower are of the restrictive aspects in an empirical study and this study may also be limited due to these aspects.

2. The answer of respondents as such will have to be taken as true.

3. The respondents may be quite on certain issues and such certain inferences will have to be drawn on the basis of observation of the overt behavior of the respondent which may be included gestures and facial impressions.

4. The conclusion drawn may not be universal.

CHAPTER SCHEME

1. Political Socialization - Conceptual and Theoretical Frame work.

2. Education, Society and Polity: Interface.

3. Review of published literature.

4. Methodology.

5. Findings and Discussions.

6. Conclusion and Generalization.

7. Bibliography.

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